

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

September 5, 2006

7:00 PM

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman O'Neil

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. There were fourteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Guinta requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Randal Ripley, 13 Morning Glory Drive, Manchester, NH (Re: Police) stated:

I just had a statement I would like to read about Police entering people's homes illegally. On Wednesday, August 9th Wilfrid Rousseau's 15 year old daughter Mirage caught Manchester Police Officers Derek Sullivan and Patrick Houghton in the family home without a warrant or permission to be there. When she questioned the officers why they were in the home just like any common criminal they lied claiming that the door was open and they walked in to look for a 14 year old runaway. Not being dumb enough to believe their story even at her young age Mirage called her father. When he confronted them with the fact that the family never left the door open because of their pet cat the two upstanding officers changed their story to the door was unlocked. If they lied about the entry how can you believe what they said about the reason for it. The *Union Leader* said in an editorial on Sunday, August 13th "had anyone but a law enforcement officer done this it would look like an easy case of illegal entry." I couldn't disagree more. This was a clear cut case of illegal entry. Not even cops can enter a private home without legal authority or the resident's authorization. After this incident I wrote Mayor Guinta and called my Alderman Real Pinard. Mayor Guinta never responded and Mr. Pinard gave me a tepid response that what the officer's did was wrong

but I have not heard either of them speak out publicly on this issue nor have I heard any of you on the council. Does this Board condone this kind of behavior because it's the cops doing it? Would you be so quiet if it had been your home or one of your friend's homes? I read Friday, September 1st in the *Union Leader* that the Mayor had called for zero tolerance for petty crime but not a word about the serious crime committed by Manchester Police officers, why is that Mr. Mayor? It is easy to speak up against girl fights, drugs or the Omega Club but it takes a little more courage to criticize a City institution. The Mayor can surely beat the law and order drum over these issues, which he should, but he also should not be a hypocrite and suddenly lose his drumsticks when it's the cops committing the crime. I support the Mayor's efforts to lower taxes, to clean up drugs and prostitution, even shutting down the Omega for the violence it brought to the City but I don't support his or the Board's silence on police tactics that include illegal entry. I know personally how hard it is to get the police to look into anything even when you provide them all the information necessary to do their job. Have you forgotten the 70 or more cases they never looked into dubbed the "Scofflaws" incident where they never looked into cases of people passing stopped school buses even when they were provided all the necessary information to do so? Either Chief Jaskolka is incompetent or he is telling his officers this behavior is okay because he could stop it instantly if he wanted to. If he did the right thing and fired both of these guys others would be a lot more hesitant to do it. I would like the Board to remember a person's home is supposed to be their place of safety, a personal sanctuary. If you have ever had your home broken into or entered illegally you know that it is extremely hard to ever feel the same about the place again. Not even cops should be allowed to get away with causing a family to feel that way. Thank you.

Jeanine Tousignant, 471 Lowell Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Firefighters Memorial Park) stated:

I here this evening representing a new neighborhood association...The Weston Neighborhood Association. My story is that I moved into Lowell Street six years ago and for five and a half of those years I didn't know many of my neighbors. About six months ago things started happening with the Weston Street Fire Station that it would be torn down. When this started happening the neighbors started gathering around the station, started talking about it and when the station actually did get torn down everybody met each other. We looked at what had happened at this difficult moment in time in our neighborhood and we said we have an opportunity here. We can take this difficult situation and turn it into a really great thing for the neighbors and for the firefighters and for the City of Manchester. And so we've gotten together and we formed the Weston Neighborhood Association and we have very specific goals that we are putting out. One of the goals is to have the land where the fire station once stood designated as Firefighters Memorial Park. The point of that is to protect the land from future development where the fire station once stood and to preserve the land as an asset to the community and the City. The second is to erect a memorial to all Manchester firefighters in the new park. This will honor the fire station and all the Manchester firefighters who have served the City for years in the past, who are serving now

and in the future. Our third goal is to be stewards of the park with future beautification efforts and to bring the neighborhood together. And, our fourth goal is to establish the park as a means to bring the community together around a common purpose. This is pretty exciting that this is already happening. We've had meetings in my backyard and at the site of the Weston Street Fire Station and beyond just the plans things that are growing out of this is that we're having our very first neighborhood barbecue, we are also beginning to organize neighborhood watches and we're getting to know each other and have a real neighborhood like some of us grew up in and that we miss. We're trying to build a sense of community and this tragedy with the fire station has been the impetus for us to do that and we ask for your support of this proposal tonight. Thank you.

James Pierce, 60 Ash Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Central High School) stated:

I'm approximately three houses from Central High School and I'm here to voice all my displeasures with a lot of the activity that takes place on Ash Street between Bridge and Lowell Streets. The majority of the students that attend Central High are well-behaved. They walk down the sidewalks, go to school and they don't bother anybody. But, there is a group...approximately 15 to 20 students that seem to believe that they own the street and they do as they wish. I've seen kids out there in the morning drinking beers, smoking pot, they race up and down the street and I've caught them parking in my driveway...I could go on and on. I've called the police over the past three or four years and they have shown up and there has been some improvement but I still believe that this area could use more attention. I've been working closely with Alderman Duval and we just recently has some two-hour parking signs installed with the hopes that this is going to help the parking situation out there. It gets pretty crazy in the mornings. This is a residential neighborhood, there's young children that live here on the block and the actions that go on with some of these high school students with the racing and other things that I mentioned earlier doesn't belong in a residential neighborhood. I don't think it even belongs in town at all. I'd like to thank the Board for some of the help that we have gotten so far regards to parking enforcement and the installation of these signs and it would be nice to see if we had some police presence there at the beginning of the school year which starts tomorrow as you all know. I hope we can resolve this problem together and I thank you very much for this opportunity.

Richard Roy, 73 Ash Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Central High School) stated:

I've been there 40 years in the same building and these students have never been as bad as they have been recently. They actually tell you when you see them throw stuff on the ground if you don't like it why don't you move...well, I'm not moving. I wish to thank the Board for the items through Mr. Duval...garbage cans have been put out there let's hope that that helps although it's not only the students who drop their rubbish on the streets. We saw a car today throw something out the window but we can't do anything about it because we're not the Police Department and they don't see it so there's nothing to be done about it.

Tomorrow is the day, tomorrow is the day that they start school...let's hope, please that somebody will get some police enforcement out there tomorrow and at least for a couple of

weeks get this and start off on the right foot...tell them that we mean business and that something can be done about it. Thank you very much.

Robert McHatton, 572 Concord Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Firefighters Memorial Park) stated:

I'm here to support the Firefighters Commemorative Park. My wife Claire and I have lived across from the firehouse shortly after it was vacated by the Fire Department 20 years ago. Our understanding is that the firefighters assigned to the station created a hub for the neighborhood kids activities such as ice hockey, pick up baseball and other activities. We'd like to see the firehouse plot be maintained as a commemorative park to the firefighters where children and adults could gather and have unstructured activities as in the past. The park we propose would be low impact, require minimum maintenance and commemorate all firefighters. Thank you.

Robert Hanscom, 607 Concord Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Firefighters Memorial Park) stated:

I was born and raised in Manchester, I've lived in the neighborhood for about two years. When I moved to the neighborhood I didn't know anybody, I got to watch the protesters at the fire station, I got to watch the fire station come down and it wasn't until after that that I got to start to know some of my neighbors and I guess all I can tell you is that the neighborhood from the people that I talk to myself, my family we are 100% in support of what's going on. My house is about 160 feet from where the fire station used to be. Some of the older people in the neighborhood have certainly relayed wonderful stories about skating with the firemen and trick-or-treating with the firemen...I think it's a great opportunity. If you know our neighborhood, if you walk our neighborhood I see nothing but people working on their houses, people enhancing what they have, really building a sense of community and for all of those reasons and many more that's why I support what's going on across the street at the old fire station location. Thank you.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Police & JFK) stated:

This City the last ten years has wasted so much of its taxpayer's money. I'll be so happy when the City finally decides to put in that 10-year plan that they're presently working on, we need a 10-year plan, we have no plan. We build things and within ten years they get torn down and something else gets built there for the City and we're about to do it again. We're talking about possibly tearing down the JFK, a 40-year old building. Are you aware that our Police Department and our main Central Fire Department is approaching 40 years old. Are we going to be talking about tearing those down too. You know we're going to have to rebuild the JFK because it's a skating rink and we only have two and two isn't enough to begin with. Are we really running out of land which we can't find? There has to be land out there without destroying things that are already important to our community. To build a school I think it's important but to tear down an institution that is being used year round and build it somewhere else is a very costly thing...\$2 million to repair a building for another 20-

30 years is a lot less than \$40 or \$50 million. Every time you people get federal money you know we have to put in as a community our share...twenty, thirty, forty percent...whatever it is. It's taxpayer's money, even the federal money is taxpayer's money. It's coming out of our pockets one way or another. Back in the 1990's you people got a federal grant and build an outdoor skating rink where the Hampshire Plaza stands today...where is it...it's rotting. It's in their warehouse, it's been there for years. It doesn't belong in the warehouse. If we didn't need it why did we build it. We obviously did need it, it just didn't fit somebody's...the situation didn't fit the City all of a sudden...it's a sad thing. We built Singer Park and less than ten years later we tear it down and build a baseball park. I'm not against the baseball park I'm trying to prove a point here. We're building things and then we're tearing them down...a lot of wasted money. The last think I wanted to say is school starts tomorrow, yes it does. Please don't wait for the School Board members to tell you to bring police officers in our schools. You be the leaders and make sure that there are officers around the schools tomorrow. We have a girl gang in this City, a lot of them are at Central High School. We already have three girls who have decided not to attend Freshman and Sophomore year this year at Central...we don't want anymore dropouts. Thank you.

Paul R. R. Martineau (Welfare Commissioner), 265 Edward J. Roy Drive, Manchester, NH (Re: Welfare Guidelines, etc.) stated:

The reason I'm here is I want to dispel the myth that City employees don't work. You have before you tonight a revised and updated Welfare Guidelines and it took three of my senior case workers and my business manager and we worked on this for months and every time something looks simple always becomes more complicated and they had to take work home, they're very conscientious about their duties and responsibilities, they help those that are needy. This fiscal year they were able to return \$60,000, budget surplus. We collected almost \$79,000. Over the last four years that's been \$530,000 in budget surpluses and \$360,000 in reimbursed expenses. So, they're very conscientious and I want the citizens and taxpayers out there to know that they take their responsibilities very seriously and they're dedicated workers and I know that there are other City employees throughout the City that have the same approach to their work. Thank you.

Marcel Duval, 18 Chauncey Avenue, Manchester, NH (Re: Access road off Eve Street) stated:

I'm here to represent the people of the area. We have a problem with a builder that wants to build a road off of a narrow hill, it's 15 feet wide and we have petitioned and the people don't want it there, however, the Zoning Board approved the variance and I feel that they did it more to spite the lawyer than anything else. They went in there totally biased, they treated us like we were little flies...anyway, Alderman Roy was there and he kind of straddled the fence but he did say well maybe we can widen the roads. I would like to know from Alderman Roy how they propose to widen the road, at whose cost and would it be worth the effort...who's land are they going to take you can only widen it maybe a couple of feet. We are happy with the road with the way that it is but it cannot accommodate another road of it

on that curve. They want to build four or five houses in the sandpit, if they want to build their houses in the sandpit be our guests but find a different access road than down Eve Street. Thank you.

Keith Hirschmann, 296 Dunbarton Road, Manchester, NH (Re: Firefighters Memorial Park) stated:

I'm going to be brief. In the year 2000, December 23rd my broth-in-law David Anderson fell in the line of duty as a firefighter and his brother firefighters spent considerable dollars to build a monument on the side of Engine 11, Central Firehouse on Merrimack Street and my family contributed as well as the Monnelly Family, the Anderson Family and everyone that we know for fallen firefighters who have fallen to have a bronze memorial on the Central Firehouse. So, I'm asking and representing my family that anything that takes away from that memorial for fallen firefighters you'd better think twice about that because there's a lot that has gone into that Central firehouse and people do visit it and remember those firefighters that fell in the line of duty. Thank you.

Joseph Labbe, 25 Falls Avenue, Manchester, NH (Re: Preservation) stated:

I thank you for having this opportunity to speak. I'd like to address future plans for the Ash Street School. I think that the City needs to know that we're at a crossroads at two different directions to turn about preservation. Whether we're discussing the Wilson Hill Engine House or whether we're discussing the Ash Street School and I think that that path could take us in two different directions. One we could continue on the same path of casual consideration of preservation or I think the City could make an honest effort to make good decisions for the future of our historic treasures. I think the City needs to be proactive as opposed to reactive and I don't feel that the City would be doing themselves well to wait until it's too late. In the case of the Wilson Hill Engine House the argument was it was too late for the structure to stand when the fact remains the structure didn't come down until a 97,000 to 100,000 pound excavator with a hydraulic force pull of 38 tons brought it down. It stood there proudly until the demolition crew arrived and I think that the City needs to avoid that from happening again. In consideration of that I think all City surplus properties...after the term of one year...for whatever value this is to the Board, after one year put the property up for sale. First, you could assess it for fair market value and sell it, market it as that. Secondly, you could discount the rate commensurate with time on the market if in the event after a couple of year's time the property hasn't sold we need to turn it over. Third, the fair market value of the bare land. If in the event we have a structure that is historic in nature that does not have a current use for the City then I think that property should be sold for fair market of the bare land. And, the last option of course would be auction. The benefit is in the times that our properties are being reassessed I think it's responsible for the City to place surplus City properties on the tax rolls and Mr. Mayor I thank you for your efforts in reducing taxes. Thank you.

Maxine Ables, 48 Chauncey Avenue, Manchester, NH (Re: Access road off Eve Street)

stated:

I came to this meeting tonight because I was very frustrated with the situation we're involved with on Chauncey Avenue and it's that narrow road that you just heard about and it's like 16 feet wide...any large truck or van coming down can meet with problems if someone is coming the opposite way and if they build like they want to which the Zoning Board has approved it's going to be dangerous because they're going to have big vehicles coming down and as it is now it's very, very dangerous especially in winter. Some of us did call our Alderman and we sent e-mails and we received no answer, no reply, nothing. So, I just wanted to thank you, Mayor, for sending the Police and the Fire Departments and the National Guard during the flood. We felt that you were looking out for our interests. We hope that the rest of the people in City Hall will also look out for our interests...we're representing 31 families on our street as opposed to one builder who is trying to build a few houses. Thank you.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Shea it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk